



DLS Newsletter

ISSN 1522-1806

Volume 17, Issue 2

Fall 2008

Strategic Planning for ACRL's Distance Learning Section



In early 2008, the DLS Strategic Planning Committee led three open forums to gather members' opinions on the direction of the section's strategic planning, especially in light of the ACRL process. The first two open forums were held January 13-14 at ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia. A third forum was held on April 23 at the Off-Campus Library Services (OCLS) Conference in Salt Lake City. Member feedback was organized into several broad categories:

Administration:

1. Consider redefining the mission of the section. What is our mission now that everyone deals with distance learning to some degree? Should we focus on networking, best practices, or a customer-centered approach?
2. The bibliography (or the DLS Bibliography) gives the section recognition and provides resources for new librarians and for administrators. We need to market it more.
3. Develop a Wikipedia article or videos showcasing the world of DL librarians and put them on YouTube.
4. Develop a DLS glossary of terms.
5. Develop best practices guides for administrators. (Possible collaboration with LAMA.)
6. Help members to advocate for distance learners at the state and regional levels.
7. Reach out to non-library groups such as UCEA and EDUCAUSE to network more with DL faculty.

Meetings:

1. Develop programs to reach more section members through technological methods to bring the conference to those who can't physically attend.
2. Conduct virtual meetings.

Training:

1. Offer more continuing online education such as the workshops at the OCLS Conference.
2. Help members to conduct research. Ask the Research committee to facilitate sharing of research interests for more collaboration.
3. Offer training on reference and instruction to handheld devices.
4. Mentor library school students.

Practice:

1. Investigate streaming video and audio for off-campus users.
2. Offer methods to help members form purchasing consortia for distance learning programs.
3. Create a digital repository for instructional objects.
4. Develop uniform statistic reporting for distance learning programs.
5. Develop a repository of assessments for support of students in DL programs.

Other:

1. Continue this discussion on a wiki.
2. Add a question about DLS strategic planning to the conference evaluation form at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago in 2009.

continued on page 3

Also in this issue:

Harvey Gover's
Acceptance
Speech

page 4

Off-Campus
Library Services
Conference 2008
review

pages 2-3

Social in Denver

page 6

Connie
Hildebrand
retires from CMU

page 7

New meeting
times at ALA

page 7

View from the 13th OCLS Conference in Salt Lake City

At the OCLSConference:

*Discussion groups,
presentations,
workshops,
poster sessions*

The Thirteenth Off-Campus Library Services Conference was held April 23 - 25 in Salt Lake City, Utah with the scenic Wasatch and Oquirrh Mountains providing a lovely view. The conference offered 200+ attendees a selection of presentation formats.

Discussion groups, held on Wednesday afternoon for 55 minute sessions, addressed topics such as mobile devices and distance learning, the future of electronic information delivery, document delivery vs. interlibrary loan, models of teaching and learning strategies, and collaboration.

Presentations all day Thursday and Friday morning were held in 55 minute time slots, and were grouped in tracks: research, electronic information and delivery, collaboration, teaching and learning, and administration and support services.

Workshops provided hands-on learning in areas such as peer review, usability testing of library web sites, online collaboration with Elluminate™ Live!, social networks, and scenario-based library instruction. A dozen poster sessions facilitated one-on-one discussions about timely topics. Two programs were especially interesting. Robin Veal and Erika Bennett, liaison librarians at Capella University, described the virtual liaison program at an online university with 22,000 learners, mostly graduate

students who are taking 10 week or 6 week courses. Using detailed phone and e-mail reference transaction data enabled liaison librarians to determine collection gaps and identify information literacy needs of students in academic units. Liaison librarians were able to select the course(s) in which to be embedded, and the degree of participation. As embedded librarians with access to course content, Robin has run an ask-a-librarian discussion board, while Erika has done a week-long course participation. Changes are made based on data and course experience.

Michael Lorenzen, from Central Michigan University, provided advice about getting published. While book reviews may be easy, they carry little weight for tenure or promotion. Articles for newsletters can count for service or professional standards, and are a good way to network.

continued on page 3

DLS Has Standards! Guidelines to Standards Transition Finalized at Annual 2008

The long transition of the *Guidelines for Distance Learning Library Services* into the *Standards for Distance Learning Library Services* was brought to fruition with the final approval by the ACRL Board of Directors on Tuesday, July 1st.

continued on page 8

continued from page 2

The “how we do it good” article can be a field report about innovative areas (be sure to include an assessment of results both positive and negative). Research articles utilizing quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methodologies are valuable contributions to the field, and often are time-consuming and require review board approval. While writing a book entails time and commitment, recognition and financial reward can follow. Writing regular columns for a journal is a way to write about current hot topics. Editing a book can bring recognition, and involves managing the contributing authors; writing a chapter is likely to be an easier approach. Michael noted considerations for selecting a journal for article submission, how to handle requests for revision, and dealing with rejection. His advice was frank and useful for experienced and novice authors.

-- Kate Adams
Distance Education Coordinator
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

continued from page 1

After analyzing the results of the open forums, the Strategic Planning Committee proposed that the section develop training and professional development materials to be offered to members through the Web site, podcasting, and other training sites freely available. The committee will continue to discuss the other suggestions at meetings in the next year and propose further recommendations for carrying them out. For more information or to provide further feedback, please contact committee chair, **Anne Marie Casey at casey1am@cmich.edu**.

DLS Social
January 24, 2009, 5-7 pm
Wazee Supper Club
1600 15th St., Denver, CO 80202
Register by January 5
Details on page 5

Notes from the 2008 Off-Campus Library Services Conference

The 2008 Off-Campus Library Services Conference in Salt Lake City was a great success! The final official registration number was 206, almost half of whom (99) were first-time attendees. This is certainly encouraging for future Conference participation. While the majority of the attendees came from the United States, ten came from Canada, five came from the Caribbean, and one came all the way from Pakistan.

Attendee evaluations from the Conference were collected, and the feedback was used as part of the planning process for the 2010 Conference. Based on reviewing proposals from hotels in eight different cities in the U.S. and Canada, the decision was made to hold the 2010 Off-Campus Library Services Conference at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center in Cleveland, Ohio, Wed. April 28 through Fri. April 30, 2010.

Attendees at the 13th Off-Campus Library Services Conference from the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and Pakistan

Harvey Gover's Acceptance Speech

Harvey Gover was awarded the ACRL DLS Haworth Press Distance Learning Librarian Conference Sponsorship Award on June 30, at the Anaheim Annual DLS Discussion Group/Membership Meeting in Anaheim, CA. Here is his acceptance speech.

Thank you!!! Thank you!!! Thank you!!!

To say the very least, this is one of the happiest and most triumphant moments in my entire life, let alone my entire career! In fact, this particular conference has been an especially busy and accomplished one for me. Saturday morning I spoke as a panelist on the LITA Distance Learning Interest Group Program, "If We Don't Call It Distance Learning, Does It Exist?" And needless to say, the new **STANDARDS for Distance Learning Library Services** received major treatment.

Yesterday morning, I was Acting Chair to the last meeting of the Guidelines committee, as the Guidelines Committee, for upon approval of the new **Standards** by the ACRL Board tomorrow, the name will henceforward be the Standards Committee!

Then yesterday afternoon I attended the Standards and Accreditation Committee, or SAC, meeting in order to take suggestions on the **Standards** draft and to defend it in the process leading to its approval by SAC. SAC is the ACRL gatekeeper for standards and guidelines before they can be sent to the ACRL Board for final approval.

Incidentally, since the SAC meeting overlapped our DLS Exec meeting, one of my tasks in the SAC meeting was to take a text message from DLS Exec, confirming their approval vote of the **Standards** draft. Procedurally, DLS Exec had to approve the draft before SAC could review it for their approval. The draft was indeed approved by SAC with only very minor changes, and will be on the ACRL Board's fast track agenda tomorrow!

And now, here I am receiving this very fine award!! Whenever one receives recognition of this magnitude, and for service that spans close to two decades, among one's first thoughts is remembering all those individuals who helped make possible the achievements that led to the award.

To paraphrase a recent presidential candidate and former First Lady: "It takes a whole Section to mentor an award winning librarian!!"

At first, when I was planning what I wanted to say, I thought I'd try to name each Distance Learning Section member who had been instrumental in mentoring me during my years of service to and via the Section, but this program segment would run far over its allotted time, if I were to do so! However, there are a few whom I must acknowledge and to whom I must express my deepest gratitude, and at the top of the list is last year's Distance Learning Librarian of the Year, Anne Marie Casey, who nominated me for this award. It was Anne Marie's firm conviction of my eligibility that led to my standing here today! Thank you, Anne Marie!!!

And then I must also thank Johanna Tuñon, Chair of the DLS Awards Committee for her support of my nomination and for making certain that I supplied enough photos to put together this delightful slide show!!! Thank you, Johanna!!!

I also want to thank the other members of the Awards Committee present at their meeting last Midwinter who also supported my nomination.

continued on page 5

**Nominations being accepted for the 2009
ACRL/DLS Haworth Press Distance Learning Librarian
Conference Sponsorship Award**
(sponsored by Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group)

Award

This conference sponsorship award honors any individual ACRL member working in the field of, or contributing to the success of distance learning librarianship or related library service in higher education, including \$1200 to help defray the costs of travel to and participation in the ALA Annual Meeting and a plaque sponsored by Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group.

Criteria

Nominees should have demonstrated achievements in one or more of the following areas:

1. Contribution to or support for distance learning librarianship and library services, e.g., service to students and faculty, publications, training, innovation and/or leadership
2. Consultation services in support of higher education distance students and programs beyond the traditional library boundaries
3. Training of faculty and staff who support library services for distance students
4. Advocacy at decision-making levels, especially in funding and policy development as related to distance learning librarianship.
5. Work with outside agencies in support of students learning at a distance
6. Significant research and publication in areas of distance learning librarianship
7. Planning and implementation of distance learning library programs of such exemplary quality that they serve as a model for others.

Submissions due by December 5, 2008.

More information at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/awards/dlsaward.cfm>

Questions? Contact DLS Award Chair, Jerilyn A. Marshall, University of Northern Iowa's Rod Library,
e-mail: jerilyn.marshall@uni.edu, (319) 273-3721 or

ACRL Program Coordinator Megan Griffin at mgriffin@ala.org.



continued from page 4

I have co-published and co-presented with Nancy Burich and Jack Fritts. I have many, many times over the years roomed with Rob Morrison and/or Jack Fritts. Rob's wife Kim and my late wife Jane were special friends, and I went sight seeing with Jack and his wife Shelley and daughter Emelyn this last Friday, and I can remember when Emelyn was still in diapers at a Washington DC Annual a decade ago, so to say the very least being a member of DLS has been like being a member of an extended family!

At first, when I became active in ALA seventeen years ago, I visited several organizations in the Association before I settled in on DLS for my main focus. I chose DLS because of the friendly, open, accepting, and nurturing atmosphere that it maintained then and continues to maintain today. I set out right away to reinforce that by making sure that informal social groups were set up after each meeting or program, so that no one would needlessly leave there with no one to go out to eat and socialize with. In jest and to get people's attention, I called it the "Social Responsibilities Round Table." Our Social Events Planning Committee grew out of that, when I had to be away from meetings for a couple of years.

As I said earlier, I could go on and on naming people from the Section who were especially supportive, but time simply will not allow. I will close then with my earlier paraphrase: "It takes a whole Section to mentor an award winning librarian!!" Thank you!!! Thank you!!! Thank you!!!

DLS 2009 SOCIAL

January 24, 2009
5 P.M. to 7 P.M.

Wazee Supper Club
1600 15th Street

Denver, CO 80202

<http://wazeesupperclub.com/Home.htm>

Registration is \$16 per person, and includes pizza, salad and non-alcoholic beverages.

Register by January 5, 2009
by going to

<https://marvin.foresightint.com/surveys/Tier1Survey/ACRL/279>

Questions about the Social should be directed to Jane Hutton at ja213hu@gmail.com

Registration is non-refundable after the January 5, 2009, deadline.

Sponsored by
ACRL Distance Learning Section

New DLS Meeting Times at ALA

The DLS Executive Committee voted at ALA Annual in Anaheim to change the times for DLS meetings. In the past, DLS has held the all-committees meetings on Sunday morning from 8:00 AM to noon and the discussion group from 8:00 AM to noon on Monday morning. With the change, both meetings will be combined and be held on Sunday morning, from 8:00 AM to noon. The DLS Executive Committee meeting will still be held Sunday afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. With the new meeting times, the DLS Executive Committee hopes to see an increase in attendance at all-committees and discussion group. Also, the new meeting times may allow some individuals to head home a little early

- Bill Denny

Distance Learning Section of ACRL

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[http://caspian.switchinc.org/
~distlearn/](http://caspian.switchinc.org/~distlearn/)

Listserv directions:

[http://www.utk.edu/archives/
offcamp.html](http://www.utk.edu/archives/offcamp.html)



Newsletter Editor

Margaret Casado
Send comments to:
casado@utk.edu

Connie Hildebrand retires from CMU

On May 15, 2008, Connie Hildebrand officially retired from her position as off-campus services librarian and OCLS conference coordinator at Central Michigan University, a position she has held for 12 years. With an MLS degree from Indiana, she worked for a year at Wisconsin State University and then took time off to raise two children. In 1978, she rejoined the work force half time and has worked in a wide variety of positions ever since. She has experience in a law library, a music library, and a special library connected to the oil industry in Texas – all before 1990. She has proven her versatility in many different types of professional activities, including combining three libraries into one and, when needed, learning enough programming to help a library automate its system. She suffered through a layoff but made the best of it and obtained a job as instruction coordinator at the University of Texas in Dallas. From Texas, she moved to Central Michigan to her position as off-campus services librarian and conference coordinator. She describes this position as a combination of all of her favorite activities, travel, reference, and instruction. Her enjoyment of travel is obvious from her extensive list of places visited in North Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Mexico, and Canada (Toronto, British Columbia, Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg). Not traveling for rest and relaxation, Connie has been on several archaeological digs in South America, Morocco, Mallorca, and Chile. She has now joined the Peace Corps and has been nominated to teach English in Asia in June of 2009. While the paperwork for the position and the trip is daunting, she considers it a very exciting opportunity to live in a different culture and is looking forward to the challenge. One of Connie's favorite hobbies is to take pictures of lighthouses as she travels. Her advice to new librarians is to fight the "librarian" stereotype and don't let yourself be limited by any preconceived notions of library work – your own or other people's; strive to have an exciting, rewarding career. And above all, enjoy your work. It is clear that Connie has lived by her own advice. We will certainly miss her as she moves on to other exciting endeavors. Good luck, Connie, and keep us posted!

DLS in Facebook

Michael Porter from the Web Committee created a DLS group in Facebook. There are currently about 24 people who belong to the group. Johanna Tuñon has added pictures from ALA Anaheim with pictures of several of our past chairs and award winners from past years.

Come join us and expand your professional contacts.

The name of the Facebook group is:
[Association of College & Research Libraries - Distance Learning Section](#)

Registration now open for ACRL 2009

Join your colleagues
Seattle, March 12-15, 2009

The premier professional development event for
academic and research librarians and staff

Registration materials online at
www.acrl.org/seattle.

Discounted housing rates, scholarships, and
exciting tour options also available.

Contact acrl@ala.org with questions.



Continued from page 2

Harvey Gover has been instrumental in this transition from Guidelines to Standards with his activities in various capacities since 1992. He has shepherded these guidelines through several revision processes and received input from a variety of sources in many venues and finally readied the text for submission to the numerous parties involved in approving standards within the ACRL organizational structure.

A complete overview of the origin and cycles of revision for the DLS *Guidelines* and *Standards* may be found in "The *Standards* Provenance" sidebar of the new *Standards*. The names and roles of the many other individuals instrumental in these processes are given there. The *Standards* may be found at:
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/guidelinesdistancelearning.cfm>

Congratulations!!

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